



The Rhode Island Rivers Council  
c/o RI Water Resources Board  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908  
www.ririvers.org



Minutes of May 13, 2015 Meeting - 4pm  
RIDEM - Conference Room 280C, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI

ATTENDANCE:

- A. Members Present:  
Veronica Berounsky, Chair  
Rachel Calabro, Vice Chair  
James Cole  
Walter Galloway  
Paul Gonsalves  
Judy Hadley  
Chuck Horbert  
Lisa McGreavy, Secretary  
Elise Torello
- B. Guests in Attendance:  
Eugenia Marks, Audubon Society of RI  
Ann Morrill, Kickemuit River Council  
Jenny Pereira, Rhode Island Foundation  
David Urban, Kickemuit River Council

Call to Order: Dr. Berounsky called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm.

Review and approval of April 8, 2015 meeting minutes: Mr. Cole moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker Series - This month's speaker: Jennifer Pereira, Director of Grant Programs, The Rhode Island Foundation: *Grant Writing Tips*

*Presentation outline followed by discussion:*

- *Introduction*
- *Rhode Island Foundation*
  - *Background*
  - *What is a "community foundation"?*
  - *Current funding priorities and programs*
- *Grant writing/application tips – more generally*
  - *Relationships*
  - *Guidelines*
  - *Budget*
  - *Follow-up, etc.*
- *Q&A*

*(To request a copy of Ms. Pereira's PowerPoint Presentation on Grant Writing Tips with links to helpful resources, contact [lisa.mcgreavy@dem.ri.gov](mailto:lisa.mcgreavy@dem.ri.gov))*

#### Reports by RIRC Representatives on State Committees:

-Narragansett Bay Estuary Program – Mr. Galloway reported that the program issued a press release announcing grant awards totaling \$65,000 to eight projects aimed at protecting and restoring water quality. Grantees include two RIRC-designated watershed councils: the Pawtuxet River Authority was awarded a grant for examining fish habitat and stream flow conditions at Cranberry Pond in Warwick and Blackamore Pond in Cranston and assessing the feasibility of removing barriers and restoring fish passage. A second grant to the PRA allows for the purchase of a utility trailer to transport equipment for river clean-ups and debris removal at recreation sites along the Pawtuxet River. The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council was awarded a grant to develop an education program with a focus on stormwater discharges to restore urban sections of the Woonasquatucket River and Narragansett Bay including: public school curriculum "Trout in the Classroom" for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, public art with North Providence High School students designing storm drain paintings and murals, and youth leadership development for high school students in science education at the Met School in Providence. The Program will be announcing new grant opportunities in the future. The next meeting of the NBEP Management Committee is scheduled to take place in Worcester, MA.

-State Guide Plan Advisory Committee – Ms. Calabro reported that a meeting of the committee has been scheduled for June 23, 2015.

-Bays, Rivers, & Watersheds Coordination Team (BRWCT) – Dr. Berounsky reported that she will be meeting with Ms. Kiernan of DEM and Mr. Billington of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council on Friday to discuss funding mechanisms for the BRWCT grant and hope to have more information at the next RIRC meeting.

#### Reports of activities in Designated Local Watershed Councils:

-Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone as reported by Ms. Hadley: As part of a RIRC-funding grant, two Cumberland High School classes participated in an education program at Slater Mill followed by water sampling and seining at the BRWC/FOB environmental education center building. The annual meeting will take place on May 20 at 6pm with Charlene Cutler, the Director of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

-Buckeye Brook Coalition as reported by Mr. Horbert: The excavator that was stuck in the wetlands has been removed. Also, volunteers are doing fish counts.

-Friends of the Moshassuck as reported by Ms. Hadley: Six new shade trees were planted in Collier Field as part of the RIRC-funded grant to control invasive knotweed. Mr. Garrett has been in contact with landowners of property behind the Peter Pan bus terminal regarding their future plans with the parcel. Members will be attending the annual meeting of the Environmental Council of Rhode Island on June 1 at Slater Mill with keynote speaker Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

-Kickemuit River Council as reported by Mr. Urban & Ms. Morrill: The April 25<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Clean Up went very well. Projects underway include a de-silting project and continuation of sewer line evaluation plans. Local high school students assisted in creating magnets on how to maintain septic systems.

-Narrow River Preservation Association as reported by Dr. Berounsky: The Spring 2015 Narrow River Notes newsletter is now available on line at [www.narrowriver.org](http://www.narrowriver.org) and lists several upcoming events. The Narrow River Road Race was held on May 9 and was a great success with 199 attendees. The pilot marsh restoration project south of Middlebridge is underway. A Coastal Fellow from URI has started sampling Pettaquamscutt Cove to look for high bacteria counts and will be reporting findings in November. This will be the 24<sup>th</sup> year NRPA volunteers have been sampling Narrow River with the URI Watershed Watch Program. The Gilbert Stuart Museum will be hosting an open house on May 14 and offers a great opportunity to view the fish runs by the mill.

-Pawtuxet River Water Authority as reported by Mr. Horbert: The DEM Wetlands Program received a wetlands permit application for constructing a new fishing/canoe public launch area at Randal Pond in Cranston. The application is currently under review.

-Salt Ponds Coalition as reported by Ms. Torello: The SPC will be attending tonight's meeting of the South Kingstown Zoning Board to present their position on the proposed residential development near Potters Pond. The water quality sampling season has begun for the season. The Spring 2015 "Tidal Page" newsletter is now available on the website at <http://www.saltpondscoalition.org>

-Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association as reported by Ms. Torello and Mr. Galloway: The WPWA annual meeting will take place on May 30 from 1 to 4pm at the WPWA campus. Rhode Island's legislative leaders will be honored and thanked for their leadership and in particular for securing funding for the Wild and Scenic River Designation Study which is now underway. It is notable that the impetus that created the WPWA in 1983 was primarily due to local efforts to have the rivers federally designated as "wild and scenic". Several events are planned for the upcoming season. See the website for more information at <http://www.wpwa.org/events.php>

-Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council as reported by Ms. Marks: The water quality testing program has begun at three sites on the Woonasquatucket River. The fish are no longer running as we are at the end of the season; however, the log book shows there have been some very good runs this year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Paul McElroy Bird Walk which is being co-sponsored by the WRWC and Audubon RI will take place on May 30 from 10-12pm at Riverside Park in Providence. For more information on this and upcoming events see <http://www.woonasquatucket.org/>

#### Committee Reports:

Mr. Cole noted that a public hearing on the proposed adoption of the 2016-2017 Fishing Regulations will be held on May 26 at 7pm at the Warwick Police Station. Discussion ensued regarding concerns with the proposed amendments which Mr. Cole will be relaying at the meeting.

Ms. Marks provided an update on activities she has been involved with in the Branch and Clear Rivers and Wilson Reservoir. Another Branch River Day at the farmers market is in the planning stages.

#### Officer Reports:

Ms. Calabro reported that Save the Bay will be hosting a Taste of the Bay celebration and annual meeting on June 11 at 5:30pm and all are welcome. See [www.savebay.org](http://www.savebay.org) for more information and to purchase tickets. Representatives from Friends of the Hunt River may be interested in re-establishing a watershed group and Ms. Calabro offered her assistance in providing information on applying for RIRC-designation. Ms. Calabro has been busy working at many salt marsh-draining restoration projects including at the Narrow River. The RI Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Fund and partners requested proposals for the Pontiac Dam Fish Passage Restoration Feasibility study and it was subsequently awarded to the Center for Ecosystem Restoration. A stream profile for the Shady Lea Mill dam removal project was completed by the USF&W Service and meetings have taken place with the DEM Wetlands Program.

#### Chair's Report:

-Dr. Berounsky requested council representatives send one or two photos taken in their watershed to Ms. Torello who offered to update the RIRC website with new photos. Plans are underway to have the RIRC summer meeting (either 7/8 or 8/12) held on the Blackstone Valley Explorer Riverboat.

#### Other Business:

-Mr. Cole was recently interviewed by the New London Sun for a story on rivers and recreation.

-Ms. McGreavy will send a reminder out to FY2015 RIRC Legislative Grantees that final reports are due June 30, 2015. Any requests for extensions must be received by June 10.

-Mr. Galloway noted that DEM's Scott Millar will be presenting a Village Economics workshop at Audubon Society of Rhode Island in Smithfield on May 14 from 10am to 12pm.

-Ms. Hadley distributed an informational flyer on suction harvesting and dredging for controlling aquatic invasives vegetation. Mr. Horbert added that he has concerns with the technology as it is non-selective and is not aware of any DEM wetlands permits ever being issued for its use in Rhode Island to date.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ms. Hadley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Horbert. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm.